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**Contact:** Molly Elder (515) 725-4116  
molly.elder@iwd.iowa.gov

## Iowa's Unemployment Rate Declines to 6.6 Percent in July

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 6.6 percent in July. The state's jobless rate was 2.7 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 10.2 percent in July.

"July's payrolls grew by 29,300. It is good news to see a decline in the overall unemployment rate. It is much better for our economic recovery if Iowa can move people off of unemployment and back into full time jobs," said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. "There are currently over 58,000 job postings on [www.iowaWORKS.gov](http://www.iowaWORKS.gov). We will be reinstating the work search requirement on September 8th for many currently on unemployment. We encourage all Iowans who are able, to begin searching for their next opportunity."

The number of unemployed Iowans declined to 107,300 in July from 137,700 in June. The current estimate is 59,800 higher than the year ago level of 47,500.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,517,900 in July. This figure was 11,400 higher than June and 175,300 lower than one year ago.

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Establishments in Iowa gained 29,300 jobs in July, lifting total nonfarm employment to 1,488,600. This month's gain was substantial and follows an increase of 44,700 jobs in June as firms fill payrolls and social-distancing efforts start to relax. Private industries added 20,700 jobs and were fueled by service industries such as health care and social assistance along with administrative and support services. Goods-producing industries have been hampered by weakness in the construction sector which has only added jobs in two months this year (January and May). Government advanced with 8,600 more jobs versus June and as public schools start to return to normal operations. Overall, government remains 10,500 jobs below last July despite the large monthly gains over the last two months.

Within private sectors, leisure and hospitality added the most jobs of any super sector in July (+8,600). This has been true for each of the last three months as these industries were most affected by social-distancing measures. Through July, leisure and hospitality has brought back nearly half of all staff laid off in March and April, although the job gains slowed markedly this month. Eating and drinking establishments comprised the majority of these job gains. Professional and business services advanced by 4,600 jobs with most of the growth evenly split between professional and business services and administrative and waste services. Health care and social assistance added 3,900 jobs following a gain of 3,500 in June. Manufacturing added 2,100 jobs fueled entirely by non-durable goods factories. Whereas durable goods has trended down slightly over the past few months, nondurable goods shops have rebounded to near pre-coronavirus levels. Job losses were sparse this month, but did include construction (-200). This sector has pared jobs in five of the last six months.

Annually, Iowa is down 97,200 jobs versus last July (-6.1 percent). Leisure and hospitality still has the majority of the losses (-31,700) due to accommodations and food services operating at reduced staffing levels. Trade, transportation, and utilities is down 9,700 jobs and is driven by losses of 4,700 in transportation and utilities. Construction has been one of the slowest industries to recover and remains down 9,400 jobs versus last July.

**Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data**

	<b>July 2020</b>	<b>June 2020</b>	<b>July 2019</b>	<b>Change from June 2020</b>	<b>July 2019</b>
Civilian labor force	1,625,200	1,644,200	1,740,800	-19,000	-115,600
Unemployment	107,300	137,700	47,500	-30,400	59,800
Unemployment rate	6.6%	8.4%	2.7%	-1.8	3.9
Employment	1,517,900	1,506,500	1,693,200	11,400	-175,300
U.S. unemployment rate	10.2%	11.1%	3.7%	-0.9	6.5

**Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data**

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,488,600	1,459,300	1,585,800	29,300	-97,200
Mining	2,100	2,100	2,400	0	-300
Construction	69,100	69,500	78,500	-400	-9,400
Manufacturing	217,800	215,700	226,600	2,100	-8,800
Trade, transportation and utilities	300,400	299,300	310,100	1,100	-9,700
Information	19,700	20,000	21,200	-300	-1,500
Financial activities	107,600	106,900	110,000	700	-2,400
Professional and business services	131,400	126,800	139,200	4,600	-7,800
Education and health services	225,100	221,400	234,600	3,700	-9,500
Leisure and hospitality	112,800	104,200	144,500	8,600	-31,700
Other services	52,700	53,700	54,700	-1,000	-2,000
Government	249,700	241,100	260,200	8,600	-10,500

**Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa**

	<b>July 2020</b>	<b>June 2020</b>	<b>July 2019</b>	<b>% Change from June 2020</b>	<b>July 2019</b>
<b>Initial claims</b>	36,935	39,218	11,687	-5.8%	216.0%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Number of claimants	148,469	169,828	20,070	-12.6%	639.8%
Weeks paid	556,751	618,410	69,778	-10.0%	697.9%
Amount paid	\$162,975,191	\$177,710,929	\$25,851,912	-8.3%	530.4%

Visit [www.iowalmi.gov](http://www.iowalmi.gov) for more information about current and historical data, labor force data, nonfarm employment, hours and earnings, and jobless benefits by county.

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MEDIA ALERT: Local data for July 2020 will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. Statewide data for August 2020 will be released on Friday, September 18, 2020.